Report of International Workshop on

"Analysis and Application of Global Land Cover Information"

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The International Workshop of the Analysis and Application of the Global Land Cover Information was held in Beijing, China from 24th and 25th September, 2016. The two-day workshop was co-organized jointly by National Geomatics Center of China(NGCC), ISPRS Global Mapping Joint Working Group and GEO Global Land Cover Task Group etc. The theme of this workshop was on how the global land cover data could quantify the indicators of SDG in order to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. About 60 participants from 12 research institutes attended the workshop. Prof. Jun Chen chaired the opening session. Prof. Depeng Li, UN-GGIM Co-chair, gave a welcome speech in opening session.

Three keynote presentations and 4 invited presentations were given in the two-day workshop, such as land cover production at global, regional and national level, the applications of global land cover data products in the peace keeping missions of the United Nations etc., and how to quantify each SDG indicator from land cover data.

The 4 invited presentations were 1) “Task and plan of IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information” given by Dr. Teo Cheehai, UN-GGIM Secretariat; 2) “Integration of EO data with socio-economic data for SDGs” given by Dr. Mario Hernandez, ICSU Future Earth Engagement Committee; 3) “EO in service of SDGs” given by Dr. André Obregón, GEO Secretariat; 4) “The role of UNDP in the facilitation of SDGs” given by Dr. Zhang Sujuan, UNDP China.

4 sessions were organized in a single track, including Multi-scale Land Cover Change (LCC) datasets, analysis and applications of LCC, supporting SDGs with Geo-information-Thoughts from participants, validation and visualization of LCC for SDGs. Some of the particular topics and issues addressed in the discussion sessions included:

- Being aware that promote multi-disciplinary collaboration towards providing reliable geospatial information to support societal transformations towards global sustainability.
- Recognizing that monitor and evaluate of the 2030 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, building on the recent success of GEO’s engagement with the United Nations on this issue, and that GEO has successfully started the GI-18 associated activity.
- Realizing that the explicit mention of earth observation and geospatial information in the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a considerable opportunity as objective and authoritative data and information will be needed in a timely manner to support policy and decision makers at all levels.
- Recognizing that is a strong need to further undertake scientific research to further define how LCC information derived from EO combined with other geo-spatial information and socio-economic data can contribute to the SDGs Agenda.
- Recognizing that is a need to also communicate properly and in an understandable manner that illustrates a series of examples showing how LCC and geo-spatial information can contribute to the SDGs process.

- Being aware that it would be convenient to bring all the major actors together by asking them to write a series of scientific and technological papers for the ISPRS International Journal.

All discussion sessions were well attended and they were found very informative and interactive. Prof. John Millsand Prof. Li Zhenhong chaired the closing session and presented a summary and a reflection of the discussion occurred during the sessions. They thanked the team from National Geomatics Center of China for their hard work which made this event very successful.

For further information on this workshop, please visit:
http://www.ngcc.cn/article/en/GLC2016/